

THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OLDBURY.

Annual Report

OF THE
HEALTH OF OLDBURY,

FOR THE
Year ending December 31st, 1908,

HEALTH MISSIONER'S REPORT,

AND

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

GEO. B. BUTTERY, L.R.C.P., etc.,

FELLOW OF INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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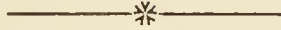
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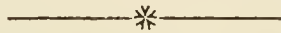
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The Urban District Council of Oldbury.



**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1908.**



GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Public Health of Oldbury for the year 1908.

The contents of the Report show that continued progress is being made in the health conditions of the township. This is proved by the great reduction of the incidence of Typhoid, which, I am happy to say, has been lowered to a minimum. There is also a decrease in our Infantile Mortality, and, although this is still higher than it ought to be, we are determined to do our utmost to reduce it to its proper level.

I am only voicing the feelings of the Sanitary Committee and its officers when I say they are fully determined to carry out the duties of their position for the general welfare of the community to the best of their ability.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

GEO. B. BUTTERY,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area of District.

The area of the Oldbury Urban District is 3548 acres in extent.

ESTIMATED POPULATION.

Estimated Population.

The estimated population at 30th June last was 29,000. The number of inhabitable houses at end of 1907 was 6937. During the year 1908 the number of new houses erected was 413, making a total of 7340 dwellings, of this total 28 were closed as unfit for habitation. At the end of December last there were 362 houses void. This makes the inhabited houses at end of 1908 to be 6950. Estimating the population to be 29,000 as stated above, we have an average of less than 4·1 to each inhabited house.

BIRTH-RATE.

Birth-rate.

The total number of births registered during the past year was 1060, 539 males and 521 females. There were 40 registered as illegitimates. The birth-rate for 1908 is 36·5 per 1000 of the population compared with 36·1 per 1000 in the previous year. The average birth-rate for the past ten years is 36·3 per 1000 per annum. These figures demonstrate once more that there is no signs whatever as far as Oldbury is concerned of a falling birth rate. This is very satisfactory, as the general experience throughout England and Wales is that there is a continual fall in this important matter, the birth-rate of England and Wales at present being less than 27 per 1000 of the population.

GENERAL DEATH-RATE.

General Death-rate

The deaths registered by our local Registrar were 447, this number gives an annual death-rate of 15·4 per 1000 of the population, we have, however, to add to this number the deaths of inhabitants which have occurred outside our area. There have been 64 such deaths reported to me during the year, 26 of these deaths occurred at the West Bromwich Workhouse, and were mostly of old people above the age of 70 years. The remaining 38 deaths were distributed amongst the various Hospitals in the vicinity,

TABLE I.—*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.*

Causes of Death.	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).						Residents or non-Residents in Public Institutions.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Broadwell Ward.	Central Ward.	Rounds Green Ward.	Langley Ward.	Warley Ward.	Work-house.	
Small-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	5	...	2	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	2	...	5
Whooping-Cough	10	5	5	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	4	2	...	10
Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup	4	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	4
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
{ Other continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	5	...	...	...	1	1	3	2	...	...	1	2	...	5
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	33	23	6	...	...	1	3	7	13	9	3	1	...	33
Enteritis	32	20	8	...	1	2	1	6	11	7	6	2	...	32
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
Phthisis (Pul. Tub.)	22	...	1	...	4	17	...	4	5	4	5	2	2	25
Other Tubercular Diseases	8	3	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	6	...	8
Cancer, Malignant Disease	25	...	...	...	...	18	7	7	1	3	4	8	2	22
Bronchitis	51	14	8	...	1	13	15	3	12	12	9	13	2	51
Pneumonia	32	5	9	2	4	10	2	8	6	7	6	5	...	32
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver }	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	..	1	1	...	3
Veneral Diseases	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	20	20	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	1	4	4	...	20
Heart Diseases	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Accidents	36	3	2	2	3	16	10	3	7	4	11	9	2	36
Accidents	18	2	4	3	1	7	1	3	3	6	5	1	...	18
Suicides	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	3
Rheumatism (Acute)	6	...	...	1	1	4	...	1	3	...	...	2	...	6
Other Septic Diseases	11	1	1	1	...	7	1	1	3	2	2	3	...	11
All other Causes	179	56	15	5	1	41	61	31	36	38	31	27	16	179
All Causes	511	156	67	19	18	144	107	85	112	100	95	93	26	511

viz :—The Queen's Hospital, the General Hospital,, the Children's Hospital, Birmingham; West Bromwich Hospital, the Fever Hospital, Holly Lane; and the Barnsley Hall Asylum. The total number of deaths was therefore 511, of these 253 were males and 258 were females. Our nett death-rate was 17·6 per 1000 per annum. This is a slight

decrease compared with the previous year when it was 18·1 per 1000. I have not been able to give the average death-rate for the past ten years, as the deaths occurring outside our own district were not included until six years ago. The principal causes of deaths during the year were bronchitis and pneumonia, of these there were 83; diarrhœa and enteritis gave 65 deaths, while heart disease in its various forms caused 36 deaths; this latter disease shows a continual increase year by year, and is no doubt due to the struggle for existence. There were in all 18 deaths due to accidents of various kinds, being six less than in the previous year.

INFANTILE DEATHS.

Infantile Deaths.

The deaths of children under the age of one year numbered 156, which gives a death-rate of 147 per 1000 births, this compares favourably with that of the previous year when the infant mortality rate was 162 per 1000 births. The average infantile mortality for the past ten years is 187 per 1000 births; we therefore have good grounds for assuming that the efforts which have been made by the Council and its officers are at last being crowned by a certain amount of success, and, although we have not yet by any means attained our highest aim, we have at any rate considerably reduced the lamentable waste of infant life which has hitherto obtained in our district. This result will, I am sure, spur us all on to further efforts, so that we may eventually attain our ideals in this most important matter. The work of our Health Missioner has played no inconsiderable part in this important branch of our public health work, and I feel sure if the people amongst whom she labours will only try to put in practice the valuable lessons she gives them, we shall soon have less cause to lament the unnecessary wastage of child life. The chief factors in infantile mortality were diarrhœa and enteritis, which are practically the same disease; 68 deaths were recorded as being due to these and other intestinal diseases, if we add to these the three deaths registered as due to tubercular peritonitis we have nearly half of the entire deaths of children under one year. There were 15 deaths from bronchitis in infants under 12 months old. If greater

TABLE II.—*Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.*
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total Deaths	
	1 week.				1 month.												under 1 year.	
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Scarlet Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Whooping Cough...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wasting Diseases.	Diarrhoea, all forms ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteritis, Mucro-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Diseases.	Premature Birth...	14	3	2	19	1	3	4	1	2	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Congenital Defects ...	2	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Injury at Birth ...	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases.	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes.	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Erysipelas ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes.	Syphilis ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes.	Convulsions ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bronchitis ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Laryngitis ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes.	Pneumonia ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Suffocation, overlying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Causes ...	3	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	27	8	7	4	46	13	13	15	18	8	12	4	10	11	6	..	156	

Deaths in the year—Legitimate, 1020; Illegitimate, 40.
 Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 511.
 Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 142; Illegitimate Infants, 14.
 Population (estimated to middle of 1908) 29,000.

care was exercised by parents in the feeding, clothing, and general nurture of their offspring, by far the greater number of these deaths I am confident could be prevented; and it is in this direction that we hope to attain our object in bringing our infantile mortality to a normal standard. This result could, in my opinion, be greatly facilitated if all married women having families were enabled to remain at home to fulfil the duties of motherhood, instead of either being compelled or permitted to go out to work, leaving the children to the tender mercies of others who have no special interest in the little ones left in their charge.

EPIDEMIC DEATHS.

Epidemic
Deaths.

There have been fewer deaths recorded of an epidemic character than has been experienced for many years past. If we had not to classify diarrhoea and enteric deaths as epidemic ones our zymotic mortality would certainly seem remarkable. Our deaths from contagious diseases are as follows: 5 from scarlet fever, 1 from measles, 1 from typhoid, 4 from croup and diphtheria, and 10 from whooping cough. Four of the deaths from scarlet fever occurred in the Hospital at Holly Lane. The chief item calling for special remark in this gratifying portion of my report is the low mortality from typhoid fever, one death only having been registered from this disease.

CANCER DEATHS.

Cancer Deaths.

25 deaths have been registered from cancer and malignant disease, giving a cancer death-rate of 0·8 per 1000 per annum. This compares unfavourably with the previous year which gave 14 deaths and a death-rate of 0·5 from this disease. In 1906, however, the cancer death-rate was the same as last year, viz., 0·8. From these figures we see that at present there is very little hope of improvement in this direction until science shall be able to cope with so dire a disease.

PHTHISIS DEATHS.

Phthisis Deaths. 22 deaths from phthisis occurred during 1908, giving a phthisis mortality of 0·7 per 1000, compared with a phthisis death-rate of 0·8 in the previous year. 14 cases of phthisis from Oldbury were treated at the Sanatorium at Knightwick with good results; 8 of these cases were able to resume some employment of a suitable character, 3 received considerable benefit, and 3 were still under treatment at the end of the year. These figures prove that this institution is deserving of the whole-hearted support which I am sure it will receive when those interested fully realise the significance of the facts mentioned above. Most of you are aware that the Local Government Board have recently issued an order making phthisis a compulsory notifiable disease so far as pauper cases are concerned. This order instructs all Parish Medical Officers to report every pauper case of phthisis to the Local Sanitary Authority, that the necessary steps may be taken to prevent as far as possible any further spread of the disease, by disinfection and other measures. While we gladly welcome these instructions, and shall carry them out to the best of our ability, we cannot but regret that the London Authorities did not see their way to make the rules applicable to all cases, whether pauper or not, but we hope that the results of the present order will prove it to be advisable to go the whole way and extend the order to all cases.

RESPIRATORY DEATHS OTHER THAN PHTHISIS.

Respiratory Deaths other than Phthisis. 51 persons died from bronchitis, 32 from pneumonia, and 2 others from laryngitis, making 85 deaths in all from respiratory diseases other than phthisis, giving a respiratory death-rate of 2·8 per 1000 per annum, compared with a mortality rate of 3·0 per 1000 in the previous year. 36 of these deaths were in children considerably under the age of 5 years, and 40 deaths were in persons over the age of 60. These facts show once again that it is at the extremes of life that this disease proves most fatal; impressing upon all the necessity of protecting old people and young children against the rapid changes of our climate.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

214 cases of Infectious Disease have been notified during the past year. This compares very favourably with the previous year, when 433 cases were reported.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Typhoid Fever.

Table III. shows that only six cases of typhoid fever were notified during the year. This number makes a record in Oldbury, and is even a considerable improvement on the previous year, which gave the lowest number ever recorded previously, viz., 15. The mortality from the disease is likewise a marked improvement, as stated above, only one death was registered as being due to this disease. If any evidence were required to justify the policy adopted by the Council, a few years ago, of gradually substituting the water carriage system for the old privy middens, the results here shown are fully conclusive and warrant a continuance of the methods adopted.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANEOUS CROUP.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

Nine cases of diphtheria and membranous croup were reported in the year, of these 4 were in Warley, 2 each in the Central and Broadwell, and 1 in Langley Ward, Rounds Green having the happy distinction of being entirely free from these diseases; in fact, Rounds Green up to the present has always been practically free from them. Of the 9 cases reported 4 proved to be fatal, being 44 per cent. of cases attacked.

ERYSIPELAS.

Erysipelas.

25 cases of erysipelas were notified and 2 died, both persons being over the age of 60 years.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Puerperal Fever.

Only one case of puerperal fever has been notified during the year, and I am pleased to say it made a good recovery.

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1908.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality.					No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.					
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Broadwell Ward.	Central Ward.	Rounds Green Ward.	Langley Ward.	Warley Ward.	Broadwell Ward.	Central Ward.	Rounds Green Ward.	Langley Ward.	Warley Ward.	Total cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.											
Small-Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Group)	9	5	2	1	1	...	2	2	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	25	2	1	20	...	2	1	5	5	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	173	47	108	10	3	...	45	14	6	82	...	...	...	...	1	9	39	67
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	6	...	1	2	...	...	...	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	214	54	112	13	27	2	45	23	11	96	14	4	1	12	40	71		

Isolation Hospital :—Smethwick and Oldbury Con-Joint Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick.
 Total available beds, 40.
 Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

SCARLET FEVER.

Scarlet Fever.

I now come to the chief factor in our records of epidemic disease. I refer to scarlet fever. 173 cases of this disease have been notified during the year; 82 of the cases occurred in Warley, 45 in Broadwell, 26 in Langley, 14 in the Central, and 6 only in Rounds Green Ward. During the past year a severe epidemic of scarlet fever has been prevalent in Smethwick, and, as will be seen, those parts of our district bordering on Smethwick have been the greatest sufferers from the disease. This is no doubt due to the constant intercourse which exists between the inhabitants of the two townships. I am pleased to say that, although the cases have been somewhat numerous the fatality has been light, 5 deaths only having been registered from the disease, which gives rather less than 3 per cent. of the cases attacked.

THE GENERAL WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

As will be seen from the Sanitary Inspector's report the work of our department increases year by year. The continued erection of new houses in the different parts of the township, and especially in the Warley portion, necessarily involves a greater amount of supervision and responsibility. The appointment of an Assistant Sanitary Inspector will greatly facilitate the work, and from my own experience I am confident that the newly-appointed officer will fulfil the duties in an efficient manner.

Milk Supply

This important branch of our work has received our constant attention. There are at present 74 persons licensed to supply milk in the district, either as farmers, dairymen, or vendors of this article of diet. To deal with this number of persons so employed entails considerable time, as well as tact and judgment, to prevent any evasion of our local regulations as well as the general law relating to this trade. Unfortunately, up to the present, our duties are restricted to general supervision of the cowsheds and animals, to see that the sanitary regulations and bye-laws are carried out in a proper manner, and that the shops and houses of the milk sellers are kept clean, and are free from infection of any kind. But to

insure a proper and pure milk supply we require extended powers as a local authority. By this I mean that we should be empowered to regularly take samples of the milk supplied in our district, to have these samples tested, and, where any breach of the law is found, to have the power to prosecute the offenders, instead of it as at present being left in the hands of another authority which is beyond the control of the Council. Until this is done it is quite impossible to guarantee that the public is being supplied with a genuine article.

The Meat and
Fish Supply.

The meat supplied to the public has been regularly inspected, and, with the exception of one case in which a prosecution took place, the character of the meat has been generally of a good quality. We are determined that this article of diet shall, as far as possible, be kept up to proper standard. Every precaution is taken also with respect to the fish supplied in the district. I am confident that this kind of food is of a much better quality than was formerly furnished to the community. The regular inspection of itinerant fish dealers, coming from outside our district, has had the desired effect of stopping in a great measure the flying visits of these undesirables.

Factories and
Workshops.

The number of factories and workshops is now 132; these have been regularly inspected during the year, and, where necessary, any improvements or insanitary conditions requiring attention have immediately been attended to by the owners of the said workplaces.

Water Supply

The water supply has also received our attention during the year. Ten wells have been closed as unfit for domestic purposes. This source of water supply is gradually being eliminated, and the more reliable water supplied by the South Staffordshire Water Company is being substituted.

Scavenging.

The scavenging work has been satisfactorily carried out during the year. This important part of our work requires our constant supervision, and I am very glad to say that both contractors endeavour to fulfil their duties to the best of their ability. It will be seen from the Sanitary Officer's return that there has been a vast amount of work done, and so far as I know there has been no serious complaint lodged

with us during the year. For further information in respect of the work of the Sanitary Department I must refer you to the Chief Sanitary Inspector's tables and reports which I append herewith.

Lady Health
Visitor

I also append the report of the lady health visitor, whose work I am sure commends itself to your serious consideration. I am myself convinced that she takes great interest in her work in spite of the many discouragements she has to face. I firmly believe that her efforts are being attended by beneficial results to the people amongst whom she works.

Medical
Inspection of
Schools.

As the Council is aware the Education Committee during the year appointed two Medical Practitioners to medically inspect the school children up to a certain age; owing, however, to various reasons these gentlemen did not commence operations until nearly the end of the year, consequently I have not yet received their reports, which I trust to have shortly, when I hope to have the pleasure of issuing a special report upon the subject.

TABLE IV.

Birth-rate, 36·5.	Measles, death-rate, 0·03.
Death-rate, nett, 17·6	Enteritis death-rate, 1·1.
Infantile Mortality, 147·0.	Whooping Cough death-rate, 0·3.
Diphtheria death-rate, 0·1.	Diarrhœa death-rate, 1·1.
Fever death-rate, 0·2.	Zymotic death-rate, 2·9.
Phthisis death-rate, 0·7.	Cancer death-rate 0·8.
Respiratory death-rate, 2·8.	

Health Missioner's Report of Work done during 1908.

During the year 1908, 2721 visits have been paid, and 18 lectures given.

Feeding of
Infants.

Nine hundred and sixty-seven infants have been visited, of which 564 were entirely breast fed, 195 had both breast and bottle feeding, and of these 45 were given anything that the mothers were eating, 142 were fed on cows' milk and water, and 66 on patent foods.

Mothers' Work

Six hundred and fifty-three of the mothers were at home all day, 174 went out washing and cleaning, 80 worked in the factory, 5 were hawkers, 4 dressmakers, 3 boat women, 2 sack menders, and 2 were dead.

Early Notifica-
tion of Births

Four hundred and thirty-six infants were visited before they were a fortnight old, owing to the early notification of births by the midwives, and thus a great deal of artificial feeding has been prevented by impressing upon the mothers the importance of regular feeding, and I am sure a great deal more good would be done if the "Early Notification of Births Act" was adopted, for most of the early deaths occur among the cases that are not attended by a registered midwife.

Infant Death
Inquiries.

One hundred and twenty-six visits were paid for the purpose of enquiring into the deaths of infants under 12 months old, particulars of which visits will be found in the table of classified infant deaths.

Midwives Act.

One hundred and ten visits were paid under the Midwives' Act for the purpose of enquiring into the cases of midwives and giving them advice as to the best method of doing their work.

Revisits

One thousand four hundred and twenty-nine re-visits were paid, of which 80 were for the purpose of giving practical lessons in infant bathing.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING YEAR 1908.

Month ending.	Infants Visited.	Infants Bathed.	Revisits.	House-to-House Inspection.	Infant Death Visits.	Visits under Midwives' Act.	Total Number of Visits.	Lectures Given.
January 25 ...	73	7	132	5	11	5	233	3
February 22 ...	60	7	101	5	17	8	198	6
March 21 ...	108	7	180	6	4	13	318	...
April 25 ...	90	10	154	11	14	9	288	...
May 23 ...	85	9	108	10	10	11	233	...
June 20 ...	84	9	100	9	9	7	218	...
July 25 ...	87	8	116	7	8	4	230	...
August 22 ...	70	1	88	3	4	5	171	...
September 26 ...	41	4	60	3	7	1	116	...
October 24 ...	76	4	101	7	10	5	203	...
November 21 ...	70	6	71	10	8	33	198	4
December 31 ...	123	8	138	13	24	9	315	5
Totals ...	967	80	1349	89	126	110	2721	18

LECTURES WERE GIVEN AT:—

Wesleyan Chapel, Brades Village, 2.
 Wesleyan Chapel, Oldbury, 2.
 St. James' School, Rounds Green, 2.
 St. John's School, Tat Bank, 1.
 Good Shepherd Vestry, Churchbridge, 2.
 St. Matthew's Church, Brades Village, 2.
 Mission House, Langley, 2.
 Vicar's Office, Oldbury, 5.

All Lectures were well attended.

On visiting the homes of the babies, I am generally received with pleasure and appreciation, and my remarks are listened to attentively. I find most of the errors as to the care of the infant are caused by want of knowledge or mistaken kindness.

Naturally, the mothers of large families are not so willing to change their methods as the younger mothers, who, as a rule, are most willing to learn all they can.

In cases not attended by a registered midwife, I find when visiting, after receiving notification from the Registrar, which in most cases is six weeks after birth, that the baby has been fed either with breast or bottle whenever it cried, and it

is this irregularity of feeding that is the direct cause of one-third of the artificial feeding. Irregular and over-feeding more often occurs in breast fed than in bottle fed infants, especially at night when the infant sleeps with the mother.

It will be seen in my remarks on infant feeding that a high percentage of the babies are breast fed. This is a very satisfactory state of things. In some cases where the mothers go out to work during the day they will arrange for their infants to be brought to them at certain times for the purpose of feeding. This is especially so with regard to those who go out charing and those who work in the brickfields, but in other cases a bottle has to be used as an auxiliary to the breast.

Sometimes I find, by the time of my visit, that several diets have already been tried for the infant on the recommendation of neighbours or friends, and the poor mother, who is anxious to do her best for her baby, is hopelessly at sea. This would all be prevented by early notification.

One great defect in the care of the infant among the poor is the custom of having the baby to sleep with the parents, and, although in some cases the price of a cradle is the obstacle, which can be easily surmounted—a clothes basket, a banana, orange, or egg box makes a very comfortable, cheap, and healthy cot—but it is more often considered a distinct shirking of one of the obligations of motherhood.

Most of the homes are kept in a clean and wholesome condition, but of course there are some who need constant visiting to keep them up to anything like a standard of cleanliness; there are some who, although constantly visited, are seldom found clean, the house up-stairs and down, the mother and children all being in an equally unclean condition, the beds and bedding are invariably dirty, and it seems almost impossible to get them to be clean.

In some homes there is a decided prejudice against fresh air; the windows are seldom, if ever, opened; the fire-place is most carefully sealed up with paper, or stuffed up with old clothes. The living-room is ventilated to some extent by the

door opening to admit people, so that this is the best ventilated room in the house. Although in some cases, after a great deal of persuasion, one is able to bring about a better state of things, there are some of the women whom one finds that, after constantly visiting, are still of the opinion that fresh air is fatal to health.

I have recently visited an infant living in a back-to-back house in which there are two bedrooms, the mother, who is a most unhealthy looking woman, has had ten children, five of which are dead, and those that are living look as if they would be better off if they were dead. I found the window downstairs sealed all round with paper to prevent a draught; upstairs one room had no fire-place and the window was sealed up. This room was simply used for the storage of lumber; the other, which was used as a sleeping room for the whole family, had the fire-place and windows sealed up.

This state of things still exists although I have done my best to alter it.

This may be one of the worst cases I have met with during the period I have been in Oldbury, but I am constantly meeting with cases almost as bad.

I. WOODFIELD.

TABLE 2.—INFANTS' DEATHS, 1908.

Classified List of Infant Deaths which have been inquired into during 1908, showing the method of Feeding, the Mothers' Work, and the Sanitary Condition of the House.

Class.	Sex.		No. of Deaths.	Cause of Death.	Method of Feeding.				Mothers' Work.				Sanitary Con- dition of Houses.			Insured.	Ages at Death.										Total.		
	Male.	Female.			Breast.	Artificial.	Both.	None.	Home.	Factory.	Charing.	Dead.	Good.	Bad.	Back-to-Back.		Illegitimate.	Under 1 month.	Over 1 and under 2 months.	Over 2 and under 3 months.	Over 3 and under 4 months.	Over 4 and under 5 months.	Over 5 and under 6 months.	Over 6 and under 7 months.	Over 7 and under 8 months.	Over 8 and under 9 months.		Over 9 and under 10 months.	Over 10 and under 11 months.
1	10	16	26	Zymotic Diseases ...	9	8	9	0	16	3	5	2	17	9	12	4	19	0	4	3	3	6	3	1	2	2	4	0	26
2	6	8	14	Respiratory Diseases	9	2	3	0	10	1	3	0	9	5	4	0	9	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	14
3	13	13	26	Developmental Dis's	5	9	7	5	14	4	8	0	16	10	10	4	10	10	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	26
4	8	7	15	Convulsive Diseases	4	2	7	2	9	2	3	0	10	4	5	0	5	4	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	15
5	2	1	3	Tubercular Diseases	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
6	8	7	15	Premature Births ...	6	0	0	9	10	4	1	0	9	6	4	4	3	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
7	10	16	26	Other Causes ...	10	5	9	2	15	2	8	1	17	9	12	2	12	6	0	1	5	4	3	4	1	1	0	26	
57	68	125			45	26	36	18	77	16	28	3	81	43	47	14	59	35	10	10	15	12	9	10	2	8	4	2	125

In Class 1 are included Diarrhœa, 21; Membraneous Croup, 1; Pertussis, 4. Broncho-Pneumonia, 4; Bronchitis, 9; Pneumonia, 1. Inanition, 4; Debility, 13; Marasmus, 9. Meningitis, 6; Dentition Convulsions, 4; Convulsions, 5. Tubercular Peritonitis, 2; Phthisis, 1. Premature Births, 15. Gastritis, 2; Enteritis, 15; Heart Failure, 3; Pemphigus, 2; Suffocated in Bed, 1; Syphilis, 1; Arthritis, 1; Encephalitis, 1.

The Urban District Council of Oldbury.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of sanitary work completed in the district in the year ending December 31st, 1908.

It affords us pleasure to report to you the improved sanitary condition of the district, which by continuous endeavours have been accomplished. We have carefully inspected the older tenements in the township to obtain a knowledge of their character, and those conditions under which the poorer classes are dwelling, and of those which are inimical to health, and the result has been that 28 houses have been closed as unfit for human habitation, 9 cases of overcrowding have been found and dealt with, and 114 houses were repaired and ventilated and rendered fit for habitation, and 90 houses were thoroughly cleansed and limewashed. The district is now well supplied with housing accommodation, the houses at present being greatly in excess of inhabitants, while there have been 413 additional houses erected during the year.

Sanitary
Conveniences.

There have been 101 privies converted into water closets, 14 additional water closets have been provided, 20 water closets have been repaired, 37 ashpits have been reconstructed, and 470 new dust receptacles provided.

House Drains.

Our attention has been directed to the sanitary condition of the premises and the surroundings of houses to ascertain whether any defects were existing in the drains, and, as far as possible, to keep them in good working order and condition, with the result that 435 drains were laid or relaid, 136 were cleansed, trapped, or ventilated, and 13 lavatories or urinals built or repaired, and 6 proper disconnections of drains or sinks were made.

Infectious
Disease.

In all cases of infectious disease we are careful to note the character of the premises and the conditions under which the people are dwelling, and to acquaint the Medical Officer of Health of any condition requiring his attention. We supply disinfectants freely, and advise the persons dwelling in the houses as to isolation, but where possible we have the cases removed to the hospital. 194 cases of infectious disease have been enquired into, 71 patients were removed to hospital, 157 houses were disinfected and cleansed, 400 lots of bedding and clothing were disinfected or destroyed.

Dairies, Cow
sheds, and
Milkshops.

We are following a vigilant inspection of all cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops in the district and we mark the improved condition of the byres and cowsheds where cattle are housed. We have had numerous reconstructions executed and improvements made, and two large cowsheds have been erected to accommodate 44 head of cattle. We have carefully noted the conditions under which milk has been distributed and have visited the milkshops to ascertain the cleanliness or otherwise of the utensils used; there are 68 persons engaged in the milk trade in the district.

Water Supply

Our attention has been directed to the condition of the water supply in the district, and we have carefully watched all shallow wells, so that we may acquaint ourselves with any percolation of a polluting medium into the wells, and where we have suspected pollution of the water we have caused samples to be taken and submitted to the county analyst. 18 samples of water have been analysed, 10 wells have been closed, and 220 houses were supplied with water from the South Staffordshire Company's mains during the year.

Factories and
Workshops.

We regularly supervise the workshops and workplaces in the district and the outworkers' premises, and any nuisances found thereon are dealt with promptly. We have 132 workshops and workplaces on the register, 12 were certified for limewashing and 5 insanitary conditions were dealt with as nuisances.

Scavenging.

The constant inspection which has been maintained over this part of the work of the health department has brought the cleansing of the different premises into regular and

consecutive order, and without inconvenience to the workman or those who may in any way be affected thereby, and the promptitude and dispatch with which the work has been done has obviated the cause of complaints which might otherwise have been made. The number of privies and ashpits emptied have been 11,842, and 67,024 dry receptacles have been cleansed during the year. We are continuing to sweep and cleanse any court or surface where we have found offensive deposits, and have thoroughly disinfected all yards and premises where it has been necessary.

Report of the Working of the Canal Boats Acts, 1877 and 1884.

I have the pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of the working of the Canal Boats Acts, 1877 and 1884, in this district during the year ending December 31st, 1908.

Throughout the year constant inspections have been made of all boats plying in the district, and every care has been taken to make the inspection as complete as possible, so that no contravention should escape the knowledge of the Inspector. Specially have we noted the conditions under which the people were living with regard to personal cleanliness, and also the cabins.

The inspection of boats for the year number 310, and the infringements which have been found number 36, the majority of which ceased after the owners had been acquainted with them.

The boats inspected were registered to accommodate $1087\frac{3}{4}$ adults, and were occupied by 664 persons of adult age, 480 being males, and 184 females, and 204 children, 99 were boys, and 105 girls, 87 being of school age, and 96 were under school age. The various ages of the children are given in the table below.

	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Under 1 year.
<i>Ages...</i>															
<i>Boys...</i>	2	3	9	11	9	7	4	6	10	7	7	8	5	5	6
<i>Girls...</i>	0	1	2	11	9	7	8	4	5	8	7	8	5	10	20

With regard to the infringements which were found these were varied in character, and consisted of absence of certificate 4, certificate not identifying owner and boat 4, boat not properly marked and numbered 4, want of cleanliness 2, overcrowding 3, dilapidation 1, bilge water under cabin floors 3, boats without pumps 4, no proper water vessel 9.

There are still many boats which have the lettering, marking, and numbering upon them, and are simply used as day boats, and therefore not for real occupancy. In these cases we have impressed upon the person in charge to have them taken from the register. In some cases there seems a disinclination to do this.

Our aim has been constantly to get all boats thoroughly equipped and the proper provision of those things which are necessary to make them conform to the Acts and Regulations.

We have had no case of infectious disease throughout the year. We have also two well-equipped Hospitals for infectious disease should any occur.

I append a statistical supplement of canal boats inspection, and a general summary of sanitary work completed in the district.

Gentlemen, I am,
Your obedient servant,
GEORGE H. ROBBINS,
Sanitary and Canal Boats Inspector.

General Summary of Sanitary Work completed in the year ending December 31st, 1908.

No. of complaints	-	-	-	-	-	41
Notices issued for abatement of nuisances	-	-	-	-	-	450
Notices complied with	-	-	-	-	-	421
Notices outstanding	-	-	-	-	-	29
HOUSES—						
Erected	-	-	-	-	-	413
Repaired	-	-	-	-	-	114
Closed as unfit for habitation	-	-	-	-	-	28
No. cleansed and lime-washed	-	-	-	-	-	90

OVERCROWDING—

Cases abated	-	-	-	-	9
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HOUSE DRAINS—

Drains laid or relaid	-	-	-	-	435
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Cleansed, trapped, and ventilated	-	-	-	-	136
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Sink pipes properly disconnected	-	-	-	-	6
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Lavatories or urinals built or repaired	-	-	-	-	13
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WATER CLOSETS—

No. of additional water closets provided	-	-	-	-	14
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No. repaired, ventilated, and supplied with flush cisterns	-	-	-	-	20
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PRIVIES AND ASHPITS—

No. converted to w.c's or slop closets	-	-	-	-	101
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No. reconstructed or repaired	-	-	-	-	37
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No. of additional privies and ashpits provided	-	-	-	-	0
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DUST RECEPTACLES—

No. of new dust receptacles provided	-	-	-	-	470
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SCAVENGING—

No. of houses from which refuse is removable	-	-	-	-	7390
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No. of privies and ashpits cleansed	-	-	-	-	11842
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No. of portable receptacles cleansed	-	-	-	-	67024
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OFFENSIVE TRADES—

No. under observation	-	-	-	-	3
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WATER SUPPLY—

No. of samples taken for analysis	-	-	-	-	18
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No. of wells closed as polluted	-	-	-	-	10
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No. of houses supplied from water works during the year	-	-	-	-	220
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No. of wells cleansed and repaired	-	-	-	-	0
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SLAUGHTER HOUSES—

Registered or licensed	-	-	-	-	7
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No. regularly inspected	-	-	-	-	7
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No. cleansed or repaired	-	-	-	-	7
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FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—

No. under inspection	-	-	-	-	132
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No. certified for lime-washing by Inspector	-	-	-	-	12
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No. of insanitary conditions dealt with	-	-	-	-	5
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DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS—

No. of persons engaged in milk trade now on register and under supervision - - -	68
No. of contraventions of Acts, Orders and Bye-laws dealt with - - - -	11

LODGING HOUSES—

Registered - - - - -	1
Regularly inspected - - - - -	1
No. cleansed and repaired - - - - -	1

ANIMALS KEPT SO AS TO BE A NUISANCE—

No. of cases abated - - - - -	12
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OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATION—

Removal of dung, house refuse, &c. - - -	15
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PRECAUTION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

No. of infectious cases enquired into - - -	194
Lots of bedding and clothing disinfected or destroyed - - - - -	400
No. of houses disinfected, stripped, cleansed and lime-washed - - - - -	157
No. of patients removed to hospital - - -	71

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**Statistical Summary of the working of the
Canal Boats Act, 1877 and 1884, for the
year ending December 31st, 1908.**

310 canal boats were inspected registered for adults - 1087 $\frac{3}{4}$

289 canal boats were conforming with the Acts and
Local Government regulations.

Total number occupying cabins of adult age - - -	664
Male adults - - - - -	480
Female adults - - - - -	184

CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE—

Boys - - - - -	61
Girls - - - - -	47

CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE—

Boys - - - - -	38
Girls - - - - -	58

Details showing numbers infringing the Acts and Regulations:

No. of cases met with.				No. of cases remedied.
4	Absence of certificate	-	-	3
4	Certificate not identifying owner	-	-	4
4	Marking	-	-	3
3	Overcrowding	-	-	2
2	Cleanliness	-	-	2
2	Painting	-	-	2
1	Dilapidation	-	-	1
3	Removal of bilge water	-	-	3
4	Without pumps	-	-	4
9	No proper water vessel	-	-	8
—				—
36	Total cases met with.		Total cases remedied	32
	No. of printed notice forms issued	-	-	21
	No. of notices attended to	-	-	17
	No. still corresponding about	-	-	4